

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend Claim 1 herewith.

Please cancel Claims 10, 11 and 14-27 herewith, without prejudice.

1. (Currently Amended) A process for preparing solid polymeric pressure sensitive adhesive microspheres comprising:

(a) contacting a polymerizable aqueous emulsion of at least one non-ionic monomer of an alkyl acrylate or alkyl methacrylate ester of a non-tertiary alcohol and at least one ionic monomer copolymerizable with said non-ionic monomer and at least one non-free radically polymerizable acid, wherein said non-free radically polymerizable acid is contacted with said polymerizable aqueous emulsion prior to achieving about 95% conversion of said non-ionic monomer; and
polymerizing the emulsion to form an aqueous suspension of said solid polymeric pressure sensitive adhesive microspheres;
~~wherein said non free radically polymerizable acid is contacted with said polymerizable aqueous emulsion prior to achieving about 95% conversion of said non-ionic monomer.~~

2. (Original) The process of claim 1 wherein the alkyl group of said non-ionic monomer has from 4 to about 14 carbon atoms.

3. (Original) The process of claim 2 wherein said non-ionic monomer is selected from 2-ethyl hexyl acrylate or n-butyl acrylate.

4. (Original) The process of claim 1 wherein said ionic monomer is an alkali metal, ammonium or amine salt of an acid selected from a monoolefinic monocarboxylic acid, a monoolefinic dicarboxylic acid or mixtures thereof.

5. (Original) The process of claim 4 wherein said ionic monomer is an alkali metal, ammonium or amine salt of acrylic acid.

6. (Original) The process of claim 5 wherein said ionic monomer is ammonium acrylate or sodium acrylate.

7. (Original) The process of claim 4 wherein said ionic monomer is produced *in situ* by reaction of an acid selected from a monoolefinic monocarboxylic acid, a monoolefinic dicarboxylic acid or mixtures thereof with a compound selected from an alkali metal hydroxide, ammonium hydroxide or an amine, and wherein said non-free radically polymerizable acid is contacted with said polymerizable aqueous emulsion after formation of said ionic monomer.

8. (Original) The process of claim 1 wherein said non-free radically polymerizable acid is selected from acetic acid, hexanoic acid, phenyl undecanoic acid, stearic acid, hydrochloric acid, sulfuric acid or mixtures thereof.

9. (Original) The process of claim 8 wherein said non-free radically polymerizable acid is sulfuric acid.

10-11. (Cancelled)

12. (Original) The process of claim 1 further comprising adding a water soluble initiator to the polymerization mixture after achieving about 90% conversion of said non-ionic monomer.

13. (Original) The solid polymeric pressure sensitive adhesive microspheres produced by the process of any of claims 1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9,10,11 or 12.

14-27. (Cancelled)

28. (New) A process for preparing solid polymeric pressure sensitive adhesive microspheres comprising:

- (a) initiating polymerization of a mixture comprising:
 - (i) a polymerizable aqueous emulsion of at least one non-ionic monomer of an alkyl acrylate or alkyl methacrylate ester of a non-tertiary alcohol and at least one ionic monomer copolymerizable

- with said non-ionic monomer; and
- (ii) an oil soluble, low water soluble initiator;

(b) adding at least one non-free radically polymerizable acid to said mixture;
and

(c) continuing polymerization of said mixture to form an aqueous suspension
of said solid polymeric pressure sensitive adhesive microspheres.